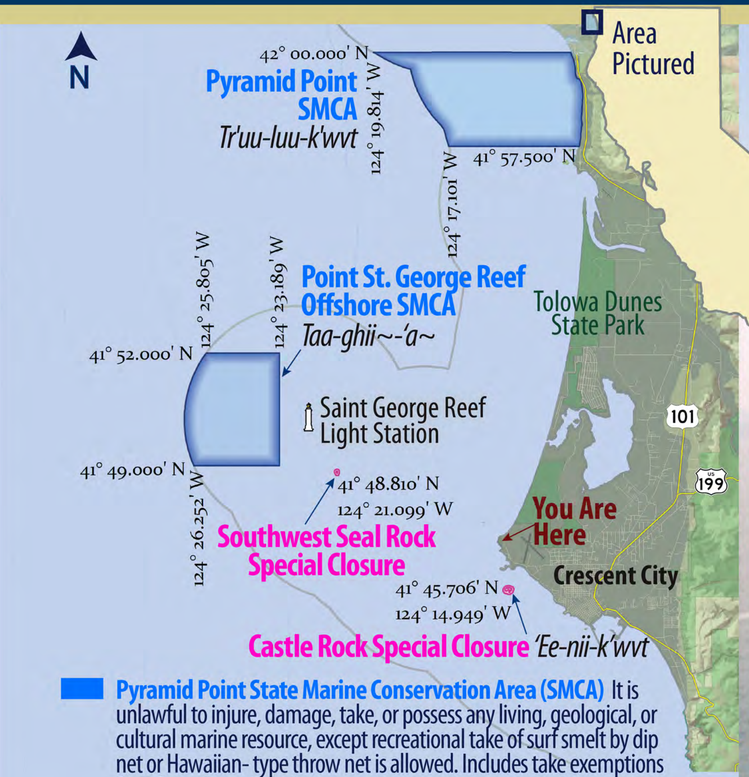
Conserving California's Coastal Treasures

CALIFORNIA MARINE PROTECTED AREAS



Pyramid Point State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource, except recreational take of surf smelt by dip net or Hawaiian- type throw net is allowed. Includes take exemptions for Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation.

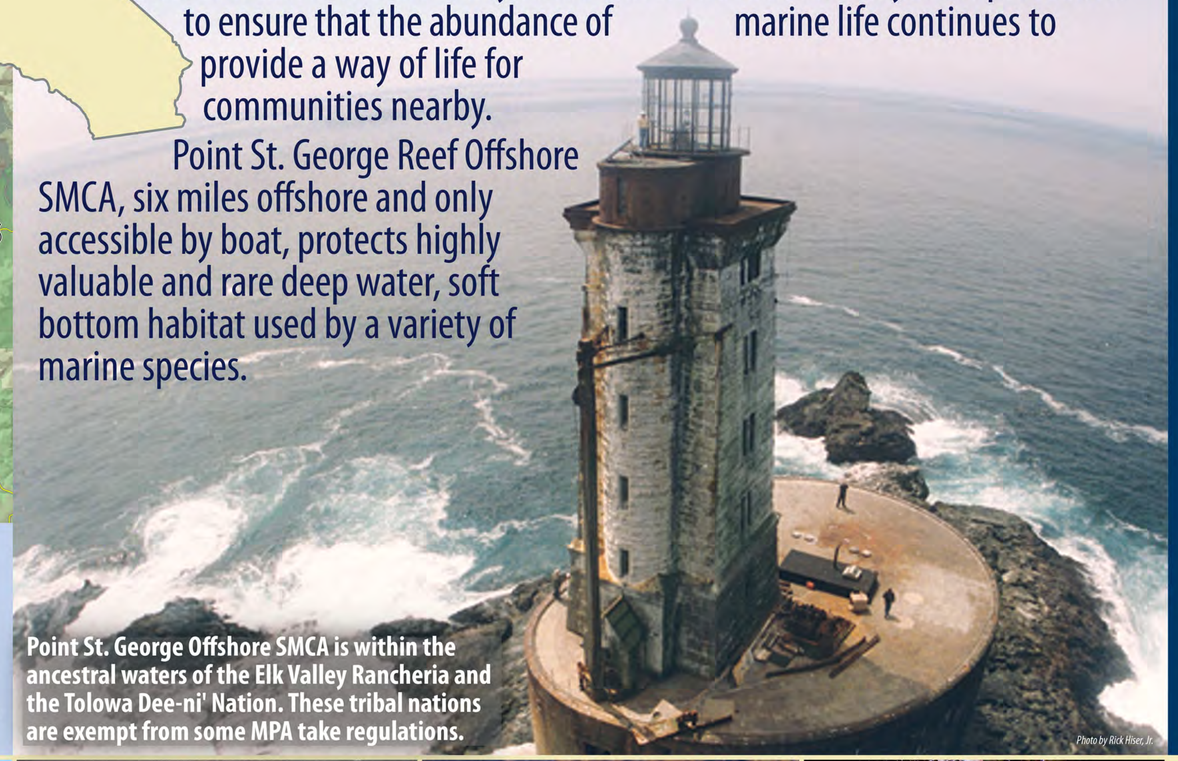
Point St. George Reef Offshore State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource, except recreational and commercial take of salmon by trolling or troll fishing gear, and Dungeness crab by trap is allowed. Includes take exemptions for Elk Valley Rancheria and Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation.

Southwest Seal Rock and Castle Rock Special Closures Prohibits access or restricts boating activities year round in waters adjacent to seabird nesting and rookery sites, and marine mammal haul-out sites.

Marine Protected Areas Safeguard Our Ocean's Bounty

A statewide network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) safeguards California's rich coastal resources. Today these waters have several layers of protection to ensure that the abundance of marine life continues to provide a way of life for communities nearby.

Point St. George Reef Offshore SMCA, six miles offshore and only accessible by boat, protects highly valuable and rare deep water, soft bottom habitat used by a variety of marine species.



Point St. George Offshore SMCA is within the ancestral waters of the Elk Valley Rancheria and the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation. These tribal nations are exempt from some MPA take regulations.

Photo by Rick Hiser, Jr.

Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation

Taa-ghii~-'a~ is the name given to Point St. George by the Native Americans of the region, the Tolowa Dee-ni'. During the 1800's the Tolowa Dee-ni' occupied a large village site on the headland at Taa-ghii~-'a~. The intertidal regions surrounding the point were used by the Tolowa Dee-ni' for gathering food and also engaging in sea lion hunting expeditions offshore. Dugout canoes, 30-40 feet long, were used for regular trips to the St. George Reef. Included in the Tolowa diet were/are tee-la~ (whale), taa-nin'-sree-ni (sea otter), sri'-sree-nvsh (seal), ch'an'-t'i~ (sea lion), dee-lhat (mussel), t'uu-she (clam), lat (seaweed), lhvmsr (smelt), and ch'ee-yash (bird). To this day, Taa-ghii~-'a~ remains a culturally important place to the Tolowa Dee-ni'.

For MPA boundaries, maps, coordinates, and allowed uses, go to: www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs

Report violations: (888) 334-CalTIP, (888) 334-2258



Photo by Jenna Bade

The Tolowa Dee-ni' gather food in the intertidal regions surrounding the point.



Photo by Dave Bezire

The unique habitats of Point St. George are home to a large variety of marine species such as the Giant Pacific Octopus.



Photo by CDFW MARE

Pinnipeds, such as the steller sea lion, can often be found at the base of Point St. George Lighthouse.



Photo by Lucas Lin

Dungeness crab and salmon are among species found at Point St. George that are of high importance and value to local communities.

California Marine Sanctuary Foundation · Ocean Protection Council · MPA Collaborative Network · Del Norte County MPA Collaborative

MPA Mobile Website

MPAs - Good for the Ocean; Good for You!